

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

### Introduction

The 1983 Land and Resource Management Plan (1983 Plan) for the Routt National Forest included specific direction on how to manage different land areas. These land areas were called management areas and are once again used in this Revised Plan. Each management area has a certain emphasis which will direct management activities on that piece of land. They include prescriptions, or standards and guidelines, that are required so the Revised Plan and DEIS refer to the areas as "management area prescriptions". The management area prescriptions are grouped in "categories" that have similar management emphases.

The descriptions of each management area prescription include:

**Theme** - the general management direction.

**Setting** - the general environment in which the management area is located.

**Desired Condition** - how the area will look and the opportunities available in the future.

Standards and Guidelines - management direction that applies to a particular area. Where there is a conflict in direction, the more restrictive approach applies.

Table 2-1 compares the management areas used in the 1983 plan on the Routt National Forest with management area prescriptions used in the Revised Plan. It also contains the revised plan acreages for the Routt Area and the Williams Fork Area. The table does not include management area prescriptions considered in other alternatives but not used in the Revised Plan. There are now eight major categories based on a continuum from least evidence of disturbance to most evidence of disturbance. This approach was developed in conjunction with Regions 1 and 4 of the Forest Service.

<b>Table 2-1. Routt National Forest Management Area Prescriptions</b>			
<b>Management Areas in 1983 Plan</b>	<b>New Management Area Prescriptions</b>	<b>Revised Plan Routt Acres</b>	<b>Revised Plan Williams Fork Acres</b>
8A	1.11 Wilderness, Pristine	73,100	0
8B	1.12 Wilderness, Primitive	127,300	8,400
8C	1.13 Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	50,000	1,600
3B & Some 3A	1.32 Backcountry Recreation-Nonmotorized with Winter Limited Motorized	261,700	31,200
New	1.5 National River System - Wild River	15,400	0
10C	2.1 Special Interest Areas	28,700	0
10A	2.2 Research Natural Areas	31,400	0
10E	3.23 Municipal Watersheds	16,200	0
2A & Some 3A	3.31 Backcountry Recreation-Motorized	27,700	0
New	3.4 National River System - Scenic River	3,700	0
New	4.2 Scenery	29,700	0
2B	4.3 Dispersed Recreation	40,200	11,700
4B	5.11 General Forest and Rangelands- Forest Vegetation Emphasis	273,100	48,300
6B	5.12 General Forest and Rangelands- Range Vegetation Emphasis	37,800	0
7C, 7D, 7E, 9B	5.13 Forest Products	203,700	0
9B	5.21 Water Yield	0	0
5A & 5B	5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	54,500	3,200
New	7.1 Residential/Forest Interface	10,900	0
1B	8.22 Ski Based Resorts: Existing/Potential	8,500	0
1D	8.3 Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites	36 miles	23.1 miles

Table 2-2 shows the list of activities allowed, which includes road construction, timber harvest, firewood, grazing, motorized recreation, and developed recreation. This chart is not intended as a substitute for the actual standards and guidelines found in each management area prescription. It is intended to be used as a reference for the reader to see what activities are generally allowed within the different management area prescriptions.



## Category 1

Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are essentially allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates and nonnative vegetation is rare. Users must be self-reliant and should expect low levels of contact with other people. Few, if any, man-made facilities are present. Travel is nonmotorized, with the exception of winter motorized use in areas outside of wilderness. Typical types of areas are designated wilderness and backcountry lands.

### 1.11 Wilderness, Pristine

**Theme** - Pristine Wilderness areas are managed to protect and perpetuate their essentially pristine conditions. The natural processes and conditions are not measurably affected by human use. Opportunities for solitude and self-reliance are excellent.

**Setting** - These areas of wilderness feature pristine environmental conditions and offer a high degree of solitude where the natural processes and conditions have not been and will not be measurably influenced by humans.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation will be undisturbed by human intervention. Vegetation in the area will be mostly late successional unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, or disease. Evidence of the effects of fire, insects, or disease may be present. Nonnative plants are not likely to occur in this area. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Forage for wildlife and livestock will be available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography and the short growing season. Opportunities to view wildlife will exist, but will not be encouraged through management activities.

This area will provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and isolation. Very infrequent contacts will occur with other users, large groups, or wilderness rangers. Visitors can expect to use primitive skills often in an environment that offers a high level of challenge and risk. There will be no perceptible evidence of past human use in this area. All activities will be integrated in such a way that evidence of current human use is not noticeable the following season. No roads or signs will be present in the area. User-created trails will be imperceptible from game trails, none of which will be maintained or designated on maps or trail guides. Travel will primarily be cross-country.

Domestic livestock may be encountered during the summer. Past or present mining activity may occur but will be rare.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Range

##### Standard

1. Do not allow camps for range permittees.

#### Fire and Fuels

##### Standard

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.

**Guideline**

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

**Recreation**

**Standards**

1. Manage for an ROS class of primitive.
2. Use the following standards to provide a low incidence of contact with other groups or individuals:
  - a. No more than two (2) other parties encountered during cross-country travel or four (4) other parties encountered on a forest development trail per day on 80% of the days during the summer and fall use seasons.
  - b. No other party within sight or sound of campsites on 80% of the days during the summer or fall seasons.
3. Eliminate human impacts to the natural appearance and processes; including campsites, fire rings, human waste, braided trails, and polluted water.
4. Close and revegetate all Cole Class 2 through 5 campsites.

**Visuals**

**Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of preservation.

**Special Uses**

**Standard**

1. Do not issue permits for outfitter guide base camps.

**Transportation**

**Standards**

1. Prohibit motorized use.
2. Do not construct or reconstruct trails.

**Guidelines**

1. Do not provide new signs; remove existing signs.
2. After appropriate analysis, take the following actions, where needed: eliminate evidence of trails, minimize trail impacts to visual resources, eliminate duplicate routes, and remove trails from user maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.

## 1.12 Wilderness, Primitive

**Theme** - Areas designated as primitive wilderness are managed to protect natural conditions and to offer a moderately high degree of solitude.

**Setting** - These areas of wilderness feature natural environmental conditions and offer a moderate to high degree of solitude where the natural processes and conditions have not been significantly influenced by human use.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation will be undisturbed by human intervention. Forested vegetation in the area will be mostly late successional unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, or disease. Evidence of the effects of fire, insects, or disease may be present. Nonnative plants will be uncommon in this area. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Forage for wildlife and livestock will be available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography and the short growing season.

Opportunities to view wildlife will exist but will not be encouraged through management activities, other than at trailheads. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; sensitive habitats; and overall biological diversity.

These areas will provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and isolation when traveling cross-country and frequent opportunities when on trails. Very infrequent contacts will occur with other users, large groups, or wilderness rangers when traveling cross-country. Somewhat more frequent encounters should be expected when on trails. Visitors can expect to use primitive skills in an environment that offers a moderate to high level of challenge and risk. There may be some evidence of past human use in this area, such as primitive trails and campsites.

There will be no roads in this area. Travel will primarily be cross-country or along primitive trails. These trails may not always be clear of down timber or brush. Bridges or other trail structures may be present if needed for resource protection. Directional signs and resource protection signs may be present.

Domestic livestock may be encountered during the summer. Past or present mining activity may occur but will be rare.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Fire and Fuels

##### Standard

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.

##### Guideline

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

#### Recreation

##### Standards

1. Manage for an ROS class of primitive.
2. Use the following standards to provide a low incidence of contact with other groups or individuals:
  - a. No more than two other parties encountered during cross-country travel or four other parties encountered on a forest development trail per day on 80 percent of the days during the summer and fall use seasons.
  - b. No more than one other party within sight or sound of campsites on 80 percent of the days during the summer or fall seasons.
3. Eliminate human impacts to the natural appearance and processes; including campsites, fire rings, human waste, braided trails, and polluted water.
4. Close and revegetate all Cole Class 3 through 5 campsites.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of preservation.

### **Facilities**

#### **Guideline**

1. Provide bridges if necessary for user safety or to protect streamside areas but not just for user convenience. Use native, on-site materials to construct necessary bridges.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Guideline**

1. Allow camps for permittees only in sites specified in special-use permits.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standard**

1. Prohibit motorized use.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Control erosion on trails and travelways. Closure or reconstruction is a means of control.
2. After appropriate analysis, take the following actions, where needed: minimize trail impacts to visual resources, eliminate duplicate routes, and remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
3. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or supply resource protection.

### 1.13 Wilderness, Semi-Primitive

**Theme** - Semi-primitive (or transition) wilderness areas are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to primitive or pristine areas of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Past human use of the area is evident.

**Setting** - These areas of wilderness feature natural environmental conditions and offer a moderate degree of solitude where natural processes and conditions have not been significantly influenced by human use.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation will be undisturbed by human intervention. Forested vegetation in the area will be mostly late successional unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, or disease. Evidence of the effects of fire, insects, or disease may be present. Nonnative plants are not likely to occur in this area. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Forage for wildlife and livestock will be available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography and the short growing season.

Opportunities to view wildlife will exist but will not be encouraged through management activities, other than at trailheads. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; sensitive habitats; and overall biological diversity.

These areas will provide low to moderate opportunities for solitude and isolation from July to September. Encounters with other people will be common during this period. Knowledge of primitive skills will be useful in an environment that will offer a moderate level of challenge and risk. There will be some evidence of past human use. Trails and campsites will be the most common sign of human use. Some campsites will have a moderate amount of vegetation loss which may result in temporary closures.

Roads will not be present in this area. Travel will be primarily along a well-defined trail system, although some cross-country opportunities will exist. Trail tread will be very evident and trails will normally be clear of timber and brush. Bridges or other trail structures may be present if needed for resource protection or where no safe opportunity exists to cross a stream during periods of normal water flow. Both directional signs and resource protection signs may be present.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Fire and Fuels

###### Standard

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.

###### Guideline

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

##### Recreation

###### Standards



1. Manage for an ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized.
2. Use the following standards to provide a moderate incidence of contact with other groups or individuals:
  - a. No more than four other parties encountered on a forest development trail per day on 80% of the days during the summer and fall use seasons.
  - b. No more than three other parties within sight or sound of campsites on 80% of the days during the summer or fall seasons.
3. Eliminate human impacts to the natural appearance and processes including campsites, fire rings, human waste, braided trails, and polluted water.
4. Close and revegetate all Cole Class 4 through 5 campsites.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of preservation.

### **Facilities**

#### **Guideline**

1. Provide bridges if necessary for user safety or to protect streamside areas but not just for user convenience. Use native, on-site materials to construct necessary bridges.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Guideline**

1. Allow camps for permittees only in sites specified in special-use permits.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standard**

1. Prohibit motorized use.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Control erosion on trails and travelways. Closure or reconstruction is a means of control.
2. After appropriate analysis, take the following actions, where needed: minimize trail impacts to visual resources, eliminate duplicate routes, and remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
3. Provide only the minimum signing necessary to indicate directional information at trail junctions or supply resource protection.

### 1.32 Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized With Winter Limited Motorized

**Theme** - Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a landscape with a natural appearance. Summer use is nonmotorized. Winter motorized use is allowed during the snow season.

**Setting** - These areas are usually larger than 2,500 acres. They are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance.

**Desired Condition** - The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity. Forested vegetation patterns and successional condition will generally be influenced by natural disturbance processes including, but not be limited to, fire, insects, and disease. In the Troublesome and Middle Yampa Geographic Areas, forested vegetation patterns may be manipulated by human activities but only for specified reasons. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

A variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided in summer. There will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, and tranquility. There will be a high degree of challenge and risk. Facilities will be rustic and will exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature. Dispersed camping will occur throughout the area. Interpretation and education in these areas will provide a link to historic uses and resource management objectives.

Trailheads will be located outside the area and provide access points into the backcountry with information and directional signing. Trails will provide challenging hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and other nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Some primitive roads may exist in this area although they will be closed to summer motorized recreation. Winter motorized use will be allowed.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Minerals

##### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with the stipulation of no surface occupancy.

##### Vegetation

##### Standard

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. (Troublesome and Middle Yampa Geographic Areas are special cases. See geographic area guidelines, Chapter 3, pages 3-36 and 3-56). Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

##### Guideline

1. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetation patterns and patch size.

##### Wildlife

### **Guideline**

1. Design fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects to emphasize threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and habitats. Construct improvements to blend with the natural landscape.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standard**

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.

#### **Guideline**

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for a summer ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized.
2. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Reduce impacts to other resources.
3. Do not allow dispersed campsite condition to exceed Cole's Class 3.
4. Discourage competitive contest and group events. Permit on a case-by-case basis.
5. Discourage concentrated public use.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of retention.

### **Facilities**

#### **Guideline**

1. Allow motorized equipment, such as chainsaws, for maintenance, construction, and other forest management activities.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Standard**

1. Prohibit new electronic sites and utility corridors.

### **Transportation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Permit motorized vehicles on a limited, case-by-case basis to facilitate management activities.
2. Allow winter motorized use.
3. Develop nonmotorized trails to provide experiences at all levels of difficulty.

### 1.5 National River System - Wild Rivers, Designated and Eligible

**Theme** - Wild Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated and eligible river segments.

**Setting** - These areas have been identified as being eligible for wild river designation due to the presence of one or more outstanding, remarkable characteristic(s) including scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the river.

**Desired Condition** - The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance. Natural processes such as fire, insects, and disease will be allowed to influence vegetative composition and structure as long as they enhance or are compatible with wild river values. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Opportunities for viewing wildlife will be excellent. Because of the proximity to streams, there will be a greater than average diversity of plant and animal species. The transportation system will remain in place with no new roads constructed. Each stream's outstanding values will be protected until a suitability study is done and a final recommendation regarding wild river designation is made.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### General

##### Standards

1. Allow all existing facilities to remain and management actions and uses to continue until a suitability decision is made on the inclusion of this area into the National River System, provided they do not alter the wild characteristics.
2. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses or new facilities if they could be the basis for a recommendation against designation.
3. When significant action may threaten the river values, initiate a suitability study to determine a recommendation for or against inclusion in the National River System.

##### Minerals

##### Standards

1. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals.
2. Allow oil and gas leasing with the stipulation of no surface occupancy.

##### Range

##### Guidelines

1. Manage livestock grazing to minimize conflicts with wild river values.
2. Design range improvements to be compatible with wild river values.

##### Vegetation

##### Standard

1. Use only vegetative management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

**Guideline**

1. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetative patterns and patch size.

**Fire and Fuels**

**Standard**

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

**Guideline**

1. Focus wildland fire management on enhancing or protecting wild river characteristics.

**Integrated Pest Management**

**Guideline**

1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting wild river characteristics.

**Recreation**

**Guideline**

1. Manage for an ROS class of primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, or roaded natural.

**Visuals**

**Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of retention.

**Special Uses**

**Standard**

1. Do not approve special uses that would preclude the area from designation.

**Transportation**

**Standards**

1. Restrict motorized use to designated routes.
2. Do not allow new road construction.

## Category 2

These areas conserve representative or particularly rare and narrowly distributed ecological settings or components which may play a key role in the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited as much as possible but are sometimes evident. Type of human use varies but is generally not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas provide a "natural" reference for other areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are often formally designated as Research Natural Areas or Special Interest Areas.

### 2.1 Special Interest Areas

**Theme** - Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are managed to protect or enhance unusual characteristics. Where appropriate, management emphasis may include developing and interpreting areas of unusual characteristics for public education and recreation.

**Setting** - These areas are managed to maintain their special interest values. SIAs have been identified as botanical, geological, historical, paleontological, scenic, or zoological areas. SIAs can be designated to protect and manage threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and other elements of biological diversity or for their emotional significance, scenic values, or public popularity. SIAs can vary from small to fairly large areas. In addition, places such as hot springs, cultural resource sites, significant views, or State-designated historic sites can be considered for Special Interest Area designation.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality will usually, but not always, appear natural. Natural processes such as fire and insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation where compatible with the SIA values. Vegetation manipulation may be used to maintain or restore natural conditions; to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; or to protect other values for which the SIA was identified. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but is predominantly in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Management implementation guidelines will be developed for each SIA to ensure protection of the values for which the area was identified. Educational and interpretive activities will emphasize protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; sensitive habitats; and overall biological diversity. The attractive feature will be unaltered. Facilities will be present to the extent needed to maintain the area or facilitate visitor use of the area. Recreational use will primarily be interpretation, education, and inspirational activities.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### General

#### Standard

1. Protect and manage the biological diversity, geological, historical, paleontological, or other values for which the SIA was identified.

#### Minerals

#### Standards

1. Withdraw SIAs from entry for locatable minerals in conformance with Section 204 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579) when withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was identified.
2. Allow oil and gas leasing with controlled surface-use stipulation, unless further restricted by other conditions in the SIA.

### **Range**

#### **Guideline**

1. Allow livestock grazing if it does not conflict with the values for which the area was identified.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standard**

1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives of maintaining or restoring the values for which the SIA was identified. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standard**

1. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

#### **Guideline**

1. Focus wildland fire management on protecting the values for which the SIA was identified.

### **Recreation**

#### **Standard**

1. Allow recreational use emphasizing interpretation and education when it does not threaten the values for which the area was identified.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, or roaded natural.
2. Use restrictions or closures available under 36CFR 219, Subpart B, when necessary, to protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of retention.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Standard**

1. Authorize scientific activity or other activities that are compatible with the SIA's values through special-use permits. The permits will have terms that protect or enhance the area.

### **Transportation**

#### **Guidelines**

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1. Construct new roads only when consistent with SIA values, such as interpretation or education, or to meet other resource objectives such as oil and gas leasing.
2. Mitigate resource damage occurring from existing roads or trails.



## 2.2 Research Natural Areas

**Theme** - Research Natural Areas (RNAs) form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for non-manipulative research and education and the maintenance of biological diversity.

**Setting** - RNAs are selected to preserve a spectrum of relatively pristine areas that represent a wide range of natural variability within natural ecosystems and environments (coniferous forest, shrub land, grassland, alpine, aquatic, and geological environments) and areas that have special or unique characteristics of scientific importance. RNAs are also selected for one or more of the following reasons: to serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environment; to protect and maintain representative and key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels; to serve as study areas for ecosystems and ecological processes, including succession; to provide on-site and extension educational activities; and to serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

**Desired Condition** - RNAs will be managed to maintain natural conditions by allowing ecological processes to prevail with minimal human intervention. However, under some circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the ecosystem or unique features for which the RNA was established or to re-establish natural ecological processes. Vegetation, habitat, soil productivity, water quality, and ecological processes will be in natural condition (within the range of natural variability). Specific management direction addressing fire and other practices will be developed for each RNA as part of the establishment record or in separate management implementation guidelines.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### General

##### Standard

1. Protect the natural condition of the ecosystem, its processes, and any species or values for which the RNA was established.

#### Minerals

##### Standards

1. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals.
2. Do not allow oil and gas leasing.

#### Range

##### Standard

1. Prohibit livestock grazing. Exception: allow recreational livestock grazing where this use does not threaten the RNA values.

#### Vegetation

### **Standard**

1. Prohibit logging and wood gathering activities.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Standards**

1. Allow, but do not encourage, hunting and fishing, except when they are a threat to the RNA values.
2. Allow habitat manipulation only for the protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species or where it is necessary to perpetuate or restore natural conditions.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standard**

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

2.

Use scheduled, prescribed fire when it is necessary to restore a natural fire regime.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Standards**

1. Allow natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases to proceed without intervention, unless they are a substantial threat to important resources inside or outside RNA boundaries.
2. Use control methods which minimize disturbance.

#### **Guideline**

1. Control populations of exotic (nonnative) plant and animal species, where feasible. Use control measures which minimize threats to native species.

### **Recreation**

#### **Standards**

1. Allow nonvehicular recreation, except when it is a threat to the values for which the RNA was established
2. Allow recreation, scientific, or educational access on trails which existed prior to RNA proposal, unless the access poses a threat to RNA values.
3. Use restrictions and closures when necessary to protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use.

#### **Guideline**

1. Manage for an ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of retention.

### **Facilities**

#### **Standard**

1. Prohibit buildings and developed recreation sites unless there are exceptional circumstances which do not threaten RNA values (such as historic sites listed in the National Register).

### **Special Uses**

#### **Standards**

1. Only issue permits for special uses if they do not conflict with RNA values.
2. Require approval of proposals for nonmanipulative research from the regional research station and the district ranger.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standards**

1. Prohibit motorized use, except when it provides necessary access for scientific or educational purposes.
2. Prohibit the construction of new roads and trails, except where construction of new trails is necessary to correct resource damage from existing trails.

#### **Guideline**

1. Close or obliterate existing roads, except where they provide necessary access for scientific or educational purposes.

### Category 3

Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given for both. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and patterns will normally predominate, resulting in a landscape with an overall natural appearance but some evidence of human activities. Natural patterns or ecological processes are maintained or restored if not present as a result of management activities. Forest users may expect to experience some isolation from the sight and sounds of humans in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Motorized travel restrictions and opportunities vary areally and seasonally.

#### 3.23 Municipal Watersheds - Water Quality Emphasis

**Theme** - Areas designated as municipal watersheds are managed to produce high-quality water.

**Setting** - This area provides water for the City of Steamboat Springs. It encompasses most of the Fish Creek drainage including Fish Creek Reservoir and Long Lake.

**Desired Condition** - The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance with relatively little evidence of human disturbance. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation. Soil disturbance and movement will be minimal. Disturbed areas will revegetate and stabilize quickly.

The area will provide nonmotorized recreation and opportunities to view wildlife but only along primary roads, at trailheads, and at developed recreation sites. Developments, including roads, campgrounds, and spillways, will be concentrated in the immediate area of Fish Creek Reservoir. Recreation use will be highest during fall hunting seasons. Primary roads will be surfaced with gravel. Secondary roads will have native surfaces and will usually be closed to motorized use to protect water quality.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### General

##### Standard

1. Emphasize water quality in special uses, grazing, recreation, and other resources. If there are conflicts, make water quality considerations the priority.

##### Minerals

##### Standards

1. Withdraw this area from entry for locatable minerals, in conformance with Section 204 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579), when withdrawal is necessary to protect the water quality.
2. Allow oil and gas leases with no surface occupancy stipulations.

##### Water and Soil

##### Standard

1. Promptly restore disturbed areas contributing to water quality degradation.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standard**

1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production . Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Guideline**

1. Design and implement structural and non-structural improvements for wildlife and fish. These improvements will preserve habitats and maintain or improve water quality.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standard**

1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

#### **Guideline**

1. Minimize loss of water quality during wildland fire management.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Guideline**

1. Prohibit the use of chemical treatments.

### **Recreation**

#### **Standard**

1. Prohibit gas powered motor boats on municipal water supply reservoirs.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of roaded natural along designated roads and trails and semi-primitive nonmotorized on the remainder of the area.
2. Discourage construction of new recreation facilities.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Maintain the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Real Estate**

#### **Guideline**

1. Consider acquisition, by purchase or exchange, of nonfederal lands in a municipal supply watershed when:
  - a. The community does not have the capability to acquire the essential tract.
  - b. The national forest program will provide the best insurance against existing or potential uses that are incompatible with effective watershed management.

### 3.31 Backcountry Recreation - Year-round Motorized

**Theme** - Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

**Setting** - These backcountry areas provide challenging motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails.

**Desired Condition** - The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed or slightly disturbed by human activity. Vegetation will be influenced by fire according to site-specific objectives. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

There will be opportunities to experience solitude as well as opportunities presenting a high degree of challenge and risk and requiring self-reliance. Facilities will be minimal to disperse use. Dispersed camping may occur throughout the area. There may be excellent opportunities for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Improvements to enhance recreation opportunities may include parking areas and informational, interpretive, and directional signs, but improvements will be minimal. Interpretation and education in these areas will provide a link between wildlife, resource management, and historic uses.

The transportation system will remain in place with no new roads constructed. Roads will be primitive, providing varied levels of difficulty for off-highway vehicle use. Motorized trails will be managed for motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles but may not always be clear of debris. Both snowmobiling and cross-country skiing will be allowed. Skiers should expect to encounter snowmobiles.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Minerals

#### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations.

### Vegetation

#### Standard

1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

#### Guideline

1. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetation patterns and patch size.

### Wildlife

#### Guideline

1. Emphasize fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects which benefit threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and habitats. Improvements will blend with the natural landscape.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. Where fire suppression is necessary, use techniques which minimize soil and vegetation disturbance.
2. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized. Some trails may be restricted to nonmotorized use.
2. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities; minimize impacts to other resources.
3. Discourage competitive and group events. Issue permits on a case-by-case basis.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standards**

1. Restrict motorized travel to designated travelways, except for winter motorized use.
2. Do not allow new road and trail construction.

### 3.4 National River System - Scenic Rivers, Designated and Eligible

**Theme** - Scenic rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated or eligible scenic river segments.

**Setting** - These areas have been identified as being eligible for scenic river designation due to the presence of one or more outstanding, remarkable characteristic(s); including scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the river.

**Desired Conditions** - The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance. Vegetative composition and structure will be influenced by natural processes such as fire, insects, and disease provided they enhance or are compatible with scenic river values. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Opportunities for viewing wildlife will be excellent. Because of the proximity to streams, there will be a greater-than-average diversity of plant and animal species. The transportation system will remain in place with no new roads constructed. However, existing roads may be visible. Each stream's outstanding values will be protected until a suitability study is done and a final recommendation regarding scenic river designation is made.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### General

##### Standards

1. Allow all existing facilities to remain and management actions and uses to continue until a suitability decision is made on the inclusion of this area into the National River System, provided they do not alter the scenic characteristics.
2. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses or new facilities if they could be the basis for a recommendation against designation.
3. When significant action may threaten the river's value, initiate a suitability study to determine a recommendation for or against inclusion in the National River System.

##### Minerals

##### Standards

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with the stipulation of no surface occupancy.
2. Allow locatable-mineral activities. Minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation, and pollution, and maintain the visual character.

##### Range

##### Guidelines

1. Manage livestock grazing to minimize conflicts with scenic river values.
2. Design range improvements should be to be compatible with scenic river values.

##### Vegetation



**Standard**

1. Silvicultural practices may be allowed within the river corridor, provided such practices do not have substantial adverse effects on the river or the corridor landscape. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

**Guideline**

1. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetative patterns and patch size.

**Fire and Fuels**

**Standard**

1. Use perimeter control or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

**Guideline**

1. Focus wildland fire management on enhancing or protecting scenic river characteristics.

**Integrated Pest Management**

**Guideline**

1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting scenic river characteristics.

**Recreation**

**Guideline**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, or roaded natural.

**Visuals**

**Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of retention.

**Special Uses**

**Standard**

1. Do not approve special uses which would preclude the area from designation.

**Transportation**

**Guideline**

1. Restrict motorized travel to designated roads.

## Category 4

Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use but are maintained well within the levels necessary to sustain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation-oriented. Sights and sounds of people on the site are to be expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

### 4.2 Scenery

**Theme** - Areas are managed for scenic values and recreation uses of designated scenic byways and other heavily used scenic travel corridors.

**Setting** - These areas occur where outstanding scenic features draw attention and use. They are scenic byways, high quality scenic areas, and/or vistas noted for outstanding physical features. They include transportation corridors, such as highways or forest roads.

**Desired Condition** - The landscape will provide high-quality scenery, while allowing multiple-use management such as timber harvest, wildlife management, recreation activities, mineral extraction, and grazing to occur. Many of these uses and their interactions will maintain the scenic beauty for which the area is designated.

The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed or slightly disturbed by human activity. Vegetation management will enhance the scenic resource and blend with the natural landscape. Fire will influence landscape vegetation patterns according to site specific objectives. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation, unless the scenic resource is threatened. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Travelways will be clearly marked and maintained to facilitate large numbers of visitors. Recreation facilities may include scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, and rest areas, however all management activities will be designed to blend and harmonize with the natural environment. Developed campgrounds will be screened from the main travelway.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged, but may be limited to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance. Interpretation will emphasize habitat types. Some roads or portions of roads will be closed seasonally for protection of the road surface or to protect critical wildlife habitat.

## **Standards and Guidelines**

### **Minerals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with controlled surface-use stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standard**

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Guideline**

1. Encourage habitat improvement projects which increase opportunities for wildlife viewing, habitat management, interpretation, fishing, and hunting.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescription control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Guideline**

1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting the scenic quality of the area.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guideline**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, or rural.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Facilities**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Locate new facilities off the main travelway. Design them to be unobtrusive.
2. Construct and maintain facilities to support recreation activities which meet the ROS class for the area.

### **Transportation**

#### **Guideline**

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

1. Design proposed roads and trails to blend with the landscape.

### 4.3 Dispersed Recreation

**Theme** - Dispersed recreation areas are managed to provide undeveloped recreation opportunities in landscapes which are natural or have a natural appearance.

**Setting** - These areas are often located near natural attractions such as lakes and streams. Dispersed recreational opportunities include viewing scenery and wildlife, dispersed camping, picnicking, fishing, biking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation composition and structure will be managed to meet the recreational objectives for the area and maintain vegetation cover and soil stability. These areas will appear as a natural landscape over large areas. Modifications on a small scale will be acceptable when they blend with the area's natural features. Insect and disease outbreaks will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation unless resource management objectives are threatened. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged but may be limited to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance. Interpretation will feature habitat types.

These areas will be characterized by easy access and will be capable of sustaining a relatively high number of recreationists. Opportunities for solitude will be limited due to frequent contact with other users. Few facilities will be provided in dispersed areas, except to provide for health and sanitation or to protect the area from resource damage.

The travel system will include trails, some of which will be designated specifically for nonmotorized use. Roads will be open to motorized activities.

#### **Standards and Guidelines**

##### **Minerals**

##### **Standard**

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with controlled surface-use stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

##### **Range**

##### **Guidelines**

1. Manage livestock grazing to reduce conflicts with recreation.
2. Do not allow livestock to concentrate in heavily used dispersed recreation areas.

##### **Vegetation**

##### **Standard**

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Retain or enhance the opportunities to view wildlife. Emphasize species that are common and/or adapted to human disturbance.
2. Design and implement habitat improvement projects to enhance recreational opportunities of the area.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standard**

1. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Guideline**

1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting recreation opportunities.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural.
2. Make resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Minimize impacts to other resources.
3. Locate, develop, and manage recreation sites to protect natural resources.
4. Discourage dispersed camping within one-quarter mile of developed campgrounds.
5. Allow winter snowmobile use.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Facilities**

#### **Guideline**

1. Limit facilities in dispersed areas to those necessary to protect and/or enhance resources. These may include portable or permanent toilets, trash receptacles, fire grills, signs, and vehicle barriers.

### **Transportation**

#### **Guideline**

1. Design proposed roads and trails to blend with the landscape.

## Category 5

The areas are primarily forested ecosystems and are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions are maintained while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions which represent the range of natural variability. These lands are often intensively used, have a high density of facilities and roads, and display significant evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other humans and evidence of human activities.

### 5.11 General Forest And Rangelands - Forest Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** - Areas are managed to provide wildlife habitat along with forest products, livestock forage, and recreation.

**Setting** - These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities that are managed for multiple-use while maintaining high quality wildlife habitat. Uses include wildlife habitat, grazing, wood production, mineral exploration and development, hunting, driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, and winter sports.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation composition and structure will exist in a range of successional stages to meet wildlife, range, and timber objectives. Wildlife habitat will be managed to provide a range of structural stages from early successional to late successional with ample hiding and thermal cover. Temporary openings will be created to provide for this wide range of habitat structural stages as well, as the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings should blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area. In many instances, wood products will also be produced from an area while continuous forest cover or overstory structure is retained. Forested stands will be both even-aged and uneven-aged. Forage for livestock and wildlife will be available and abundant in meadows, created openings, and forested stands with less dense overstories. Abundant late successional forest structure will be provided throughout the area by extending the rotation ages. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Forest insects and diseases will be present but locally restricted. Wildfires will generally be controlled. Accordingly, vegetation patterns will be developed primarily through the use of silvicultural practices, in conjunction with physical site characteristics.

Opportunities to view wildlife in these areas will be encouraged. Recreation facilities will be present and coordinated with range, timber, and wildlife management in the area.

Roads will range from primitive to those with maintained, gravel surfaces. Some of these roads will remain open; others will be closed seasonally or permanently. Both motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided. Opportunities for multiple-use trails will exist.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Minerals

### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

### Range

### Guideline

1. Manage forage for livestock and wildlife based on specific habitat area objectives identified during allotment management plan revision.

### Vegetation

### Standards

1. Use a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices to provide for the production of sawtimber. Timber harvest is scheduled and does contribute towards the allowable sale quantity. Opportunities exist to collect firewood.
2. Where available, maintain a minimum of four snags per acre, calculated as per acre averages over a project area.
3. Retain live trees that are broken at the top, have mechanical damage or genetic defect, to replace snags wherever available. At a minimum, retain two live trees to replace each snag.

### Guidelines

1. Retain snags in various conditions of decay and distribution. Select trees with a larger-than-average diameter for the stand, if available.
2. Conduct management activities to simulate natural vegetation patterns and patch size.
3. Match rotation ages to those listed in the table below:

Covertime	Rotation Age	Uneven-aged Cutting Cycle
Lodgepole pine	200	20
Spruce/Fir	200	30
Aspen	100	20

Exceptions include areas where site-specific analysis shows the fire return interval to be shorter or where site-specific insect infestations and disease outbreaks threaten to spread.

### Wildlife

### Guidelines

1. Provide a big-game habitat effectiveness level of 60% or greater.
2. Provide a variety of structural stages, ranging from grass and forbs through late successional.

### Fire and Fuels

### Standards

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### Integrated Pest Management



**Guideline**

1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

**Recreation**

**Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, roaded modified, or semi-primitive nonmotorized.
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.

**Visuals**

**Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objectives of partial retention in the foreground of arterial/collector roads and primary trails and modification in all other areas.

## 5.12 General Forest And Rangelands - Range Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** - These areas are managed to sustain values associated with areas of woody vegetation and open grassland and to provide habitat and forage for livestock and wildlife. Habitat is managed to achieve and maintain the desired conditions for livestock, wildlife, and visual resources.

**Setting** - These areas are characterized by a mix of grassland and forest ecosystems which feature large open meadows and other grasslands intermixed with stands of aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce/fir.

**Desired Condition**- Rangelands are in satisfactory condition. The desired plant community will include species composition, structure, and pattern plus desired soil characteristics based on the potential for each range site. Plant species that normally increase under poor range management practices will be limited. Noxious weeds will not be present in the desired plant community.

Rangeland vegetation will be managed for a mixture of seral stages. Most of the rangelands will be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development. Those vegetative communities in early to mid seral will be in a natural stage of ecological development and not held in a low seral status as a result of adverse grazing practices. The specific desired plant communities will be identified in the allotment management plans.

Human use will be moderate throughout the summer and will increase during hunting seasons. The area will provide both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities. Dispersed camping, fishing, and hunting opportunities will be plentiful.

Livestock and related range improvements, such as ponds and fences, will be present. Roads will vary from primitive to gravel-surfaced. Some roads will be closed seasonally to protect road surfaces, reduce maintenance, and reduce disturbance to wildlife.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Minerals

##### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

#### Range

##### Guideline

1. Manage forage for livestock and wildlife based on specific habitat-area objectives identified during allotment management plan revision.

#### Vegetation

##### Standard

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

##### Guideline

1. Maintain a mosaic of vegetation composition and structure while emphasizing forage production.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, or roaded natural.
- 2.

Do not construct new developed campgrounds .

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of modification.

### 5.13 Forest Products

**Theme** - Areas are managed to produce commercial wood products.

**Setting** - These areas are characterized by lodgepole pine and/or spruce/fir forests which can be intensively managed for wood fiber due to their accessibility, terrain, and resource conditions.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation composition and structure will be managed for a mosaic of tree groups with different ages and heights while providing for a sustained yield of forest products. A variety of habitat structural stages will be present, although late successional forests are less common than in most other management areas. Temporary openings will be common. They will be created to provide for a wide range of habitat structural stages, as well as the production of wood fiber. In the spruce/fir cover type, wood products will be produced while retaining some overstory structure. These spruce/fir forest stands will be both even-aged and uneven-aged. Young stands will be maintained in vigorous condition. Snags will be scattered throughout the area. Forage will be abundant in areas where timber harvest has occurred, in natural openings, and in meadows. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Forest insects and diseases will be present but locally restricted. Wildfires will generally be controlled. Accordingly, vegetation patterns will be developed primarily through the use of silvicultural practices, in conjunction with physical site characteristics.

Opportunities to view wildlife will be encouraged. Relatively high levels of disturbance from timber management activities may limit viewing opportunities to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the disturbance. Intensive timber management will have created a range of wildlife habitats with ample cover. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Timber harvesting and thinning activities will be noticeable. Firewood and Christmas-tree cutting will be encouraged. Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with the other multiple uses of the area.

Motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided. An extensive road and trail system will exist, ranging from primitive roads to maintained gravel roads. Some roads will be closed seasonally; others will be closed after timber removal is complete. Secondary roads will be constructed to a lower standard sufficient for logging trucks and passenger vehicles.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Minerals

##### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with standard stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

##### Range

##### Guideline

1. Manage forage for livestock and wildlife, based on specific area objectives identified during allotment management plan revision.

## **Vegetation**

### **Standards**

1. Use a full range of biologically appropriate silvicultural practices to emphasize the production of sawtimber. Timber harvest is scheduled and does contribute towards the allowable sale quantity. Opportunities exist to collect firewood.
2. Wherever available, retain live trees that are broken at the top, have mechanical damage or genetic defect, to replace snags. At a minimum, retain two live trees to replace each snag

### **Guidelines**

1. On lands suitable for timber production, manage to produce sawtimber-size trees in an economically efficient manner.
2. Produce multiple wood products, including posts, poles, Christmas trees, and fuelwood in an economically efficient manner through appropriate silvicultural practices.
3. Manage stands using treatments which maintain acceptable rates of growth, as well as favor commercially valuable tree species.
4. Retain snags in various conditions of decay and distribution. Select trees with a larger-than-average diameter for the stand, when available.

## **Wildlife**

### **Guideline**

1. Provide a big game habitat effectiveness level of 50% or greater.  
Exceptions: within the 5.13 management areas in the Gore, Willow Creek, and Owl Mountain Geographic Areas, refer to the Geographic Area standards and guidelines for suggested levels of big game habitat effectiveness.

## **Fire and Fuels**

### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

## **Integrated Pest Management**

### **Guideline**

1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

## **Recreation**

### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, or roaded modified.
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.

## **Visuals**

### **Guideline**

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objectives of partial retention in the foreground of arterial/collector roads and primary trails and modification on all other areas.

### 5.41 Deer And Elk Winter Range

**Theme** - Deer and elk winter or transition ranges are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species.

**Setting** - These areas consist of both forested and nonforested habitats, generally in the lower elevation fringes of the forest. Many areas are south-facing slopes where snow melt and plant growth occur earlier in the spring, and snow accumulation does not occur until late fall.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetation composition and structure will be managed to meet the needs of deer, elk, and other species on their winter range. Quaking aspen, Gambel oak, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, sage, grass, and forbs will be common through the area. Openings will be common and interconnected with networks of forested habitat that will provide thermal and hiding cover. Habitat mosaics of various types, age classes, and structural stages will be found throughout the area as needed to maintain or enhance winter range. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Deer, elk, and other species will use this area during the winter and spring without being disturbed by human activities. Management of the area will be coordinated with Colorado Division of Wildlife and other agencies responsible for wildlife management.

There will be some evidence of human development and management activity, such as prescribed burning and timber harvest. Livestock and related range improvements, such as ponds and fences, may be present. Range improvements will be compatible with deer and elk habitat needs. This includes, but is not limited to, properly designing and locating fences and planting native vegetation, such as shrubs. Water developments will benefit big game and livestock by improving distribution and reducing use of riparian areas.

Road systems and trails will be relatively undeveloped. Motorized traffic will be prohibited during the winter and spring. Camping will be restricted during the winter.

#### **Standards and Guidelines**

##### **General**

##### **Guideline**

1. Prohibit human activity during the winter and spring periods where conflicts with wintering wildlife are identified.

##### **Minerals**

##### **Standard**

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with timing stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

##### **Guideline**

1. Minimize or mitigate impacts to deer and elk habitat in operating and reclamation plans. Use seasonal restrictions to minimize disturbance.

##### **Range**

##### **Guideline**

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

1. Design livestock grazing prescriptions to include achievement of wildlife goals for deer and elk winter range.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standards**

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.
2. Focus vegetation management on meeting wildlife winter range habitat objectives.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Guidelines**

1. In forested areas, provide a big game habitat effectiveness level of 70% or greater.
2. In non-forested areas, limit the density of unrestricted travelways to 1.0 mile per square mile or less.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescribed control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Recreation**

#### **Standards**

1. Close existing recreation facilities within winter range during the winter and/or spring periods.
2. Do not allow construction of new recreation facilities.
3. Restrict camping during the winter.

#### **Guideline**

- 1.

Manage for an ROS class semi-primitive nonmotorized in the winter and spring. During the summer and fall months, manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Allow new utility corridors where installation and operation do not degrade the winter range habitat.
2. Do not authorize special use activities for the winter and spring periods.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standard**



1. Prohibit motorized traffic during the winter and spring.

**Guidelines**

1. Construct only low standard local and primitive roads to implement management or reclamation in this area. Close new roads to motorized use when no longer needed.
2. Avoid crossing these areas with arterial and collector roads. When crossing cannot be avoided, implement mitigation measures to protect wildlife values.

## Category 7

Public lands are intermingled with private lands to such an extent that ecosystem management objectives for National Forest system lands must be tempered by landowners' uses and objectives. Human activities have altered the natural appearances of these landscapes in most areas on both public and private lands. Sights and sounds of humans are predominant. Private land use is often residential. Resource use is not planned on a sustainable basis but may occur in concert with surrounding private land values. Motorized transportation is common.

### 7.1 Residential/Forest Interface

**Theme** - Areas characterized by an interface between private lands and National Forest System lands are managed to build and maintain cooperative relationships between the landowners and other governments with jurisdiction.

**Setting** - These areas are located adjacent to developed residential areas. The private land is generally characterized by private residences which are often occupied year round.

**Desired Condition** - This is an area where developed residential use will blend into relatively undeveloped natural environments. Management actions will influence the vegetation composition and structure to promote visual screening and minimize risks of catastrophic fires and insect epidemics.

Wildlife habitat will provide adequate cover for big game species between winter and summer ranges. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages, but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

Wildlife viewing will be encouraged in areas not identified as winter range or sensitive habitats and discouraged in those habitats considered sensitive. In areas with intense recreation use, human disturbance may limit viewing opportunities to those species that are common and/or accustomed to the presence of people.

Opportunities for solitude will be limited. Sights and sounds of human development will be evident. The area will be accessible and available for use by visitors, while conflicts with adjacent landowners will be minimized. Land ownership patterns will be simplified. Access points and property boundaries will be well marked. Both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities will be provided.

Cooperative relationships will be emphasized with other agencies and adjacent private landowners.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### General

#### Guideline

1. Coordinate management activities with adjacent landowners.

#### Minerals

#### Standard

1. Allow oil and gas leasing with controlled surface use stipulations, unless further restricted by other conditions.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standard**

1. Use only vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource management objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Wildlife**

#### **Guideline**

1. Discourage public access on areas identified as winter range.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control, perimeter control, or prescribed control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

#### **Guideline**

1. Cooperate with state and local governments and fire protection districts in developing fire hazard reduction plans and ordinances.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Guideline**

1. Minimize potential for insect and disease outbreaks, through vegetation treatments, to maintain stands as a moderate or lower risk.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural.
2. Use restrictions on shooting and/or open fires when conditions warrant.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of partial retention.

### **Real Estate**

#### **Guidelines**

## Chapter 2 - Management Area Prescriptions

1. Aggressively pursue acquisition of rights-of-ways.
2. Pursue opportunities for land exchanges and sales .
3. Aggressively pursue encroachment and trespass in the following order:
  - a. Lands identified for disposal.
  - b. High-value improvements that are in trespass.
  - c. Low-value or transitory improvements.
4. Clearly mark National Forest System boundaries on open roads.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Grant road easements only to local governments or legally constituted associations, unless required by statute.
2. Require reciprocal rights-of-way if access to National Forest System lands is needed .

## Category 8

Ecological conditions are likely to be permanently altered by human activities beyond the level needed to maintain ecological processes and landscapes with a natural appearance. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines and other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities generally provide jobs and income, either directly or indirectly. Motorized transportation is common.

### 8.22 Ski Based Resorts: Existing/Potential

**Theme** - Areas with existing ski-based resorts or potential ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreational uses.

**Setting** - These areas are Steamboat Springs Ski Area and Catamount Ski Area, which are primarily designed for downhill skiing and associated four-season use. Areas may include terrain into which winter sports developments may expand.

**Desired Condition** - Ski runs will be designed to blend and harmonize with the natural terrain. Recreation facilities, such as buildings, lifts, and groomed trails, will be evident. At the base development, services and facilities will be designed to complement the overall forest setting and will serve the needs of forest visitors. Opportunities to experience solitude will be very limited during the winter sports season.

Changes to vegetation composition and structure will result in forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Forested areas will be managed for esthetics and recreation and for their resistance to windthrow, fire, and insect and disease infestation. Artificial openings and other disturbed areas will be revegetated and maintained with drainage structures to protect soil productivity and minimize erosion.

Opportunities to view wildlife and their habitat will be available throughout the year, but may be limited by the amount of recreational use. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Livestock may be present during the summer. Forest Service and permittee objectives will be met within the development boundary. Rangeland vegetation will occur in a mix of seral stages but will predominantly be in upper mid seral to late seral stages of development.

The road system will be developed and maintained by the permittee. These roads will be subject to seasonal closure. Only permitted motor-vehicle use will be allowed. The trail system may include trails designed for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and ski touring. Trails will be designed and maintained for heavy seasonal use. All trails will be closed to summer and winter motorized use, except by permit. Forest trailheads will be maintained, both on private and public land, to provide and encourage easy access to forest lands. Trail signs will be consistent with the ski area sign plan.

## **Standards and Guidelines**

### **Minerals**

#### **Standards**

1. Withdraw areas from entry for locatable minerals.
2. Do not allow oil and gas leasing.

#### **Range**

##### **Guideline**

1. Where grazing is allowed, modify allotment management plans to emphasize and retain recreation values.

### **Vegetation**

#### **Standard**

1. Use only those vegetation management practices necessary to meet specific resource objectives other than wood production. Timber harvest is not scheduled and does not contribute towards the allowable sale quantity.

### **Wildlife**

##### **Guideline**

1. Provide opportunities to educate visitors and interpret wildlife and habitat.

### **Fire and Fuels**

#### **Standards**

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

#### **Standard**

1. Focus pest management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting site vegetation and facilities.

### **Recreation**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Manage for an ROS class of urban at large base areas, rural where there are concentrated developments and lifts, roaded natural in the large, undeveloped areas, and semi-primitive at more remote sites.

2. Develop nonmotorized recreation activities consistent with a four-season resort. Allow nontraditional uses on National Forest System lands only if they are in the public's interest.
3. Make all resource management activities compatible with recreation opportunities. Minimize impacts to other resources.

### **Visuals**

#### **Guideline**

1. Meet the adopted visual quality objective of modification.

### **Facilities**

#### **Standard**

1. Design and construct structures to blend and harmonize with the natural features of the area.

### **Special Uses**

#### **Standard**

1. Issue permits for all commercial recreation activities to one entity in order to reduce potential conflicts between competing recreation permit holders. Do not allow this to result in exclusive use of the area.

### **Transportation**

#### **Standards**

1. Design, construct, and maintain roads with good alignment, drainage and grades. Minimize cuts and fills and ski trail crossings.
2. Prohibit motorized use unless a permit is issued.

#### **Guideline**

1. Surface main roads with gravel and maintain for truck and heavy equipment travel. Construct secondary roads to a lower standard, sufficient for occasional maintenance vehicle use. Surface with local materials and/or allow to revegetate with grass.

### 8.3 Utility Corridors And Electronic Sites

**Theme** - Areas are managed for utility corridors and electronic sites. These areas include major oil and gas pipelines, electric power transmission lines, and major communication systems, including telephone and microwave.

**Setting** - These areas are present throughout the forest and occur within a variety of management areas.

**Desired Condition** - Vegetative composition and structure will be altered to meet the needs of the site. Larger trees will be removed to allow for a safety area located below and to the side of powerlines. Smaller trees will be still present. Other areas, such as pipelines and electronic sites, will be cleared of all trees. There will be little evidence of insect or disease damage. The boundaries of the cut areas bordering the utility corridor will blend in with the surrounding vegetation.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife will be good. Wildlife species that prefer edge habitats, such as deer, will be most common. Raptors will often be seen within the corridor, although they may not nest there. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus will be on protection and maintenance.

Human development will be obvious and may dominate foreground views. Uses within the corridor will be compatible with management of adjacent areas. Both motorized and nonmotorized uses will occur in the area, although road use may be restricted to utility maintenance vehicles. Most roads will have a native surface with water bars to reduce erosion.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Wildlife

##### Guideline

1. Design and construct power transmission and distribution lines to minimize electrocution hazards for raptors and provide nest sites where feasible.

##### Fire and Fuels

##### Standards

1. To allow direct attack, treat management activity fuels to reduce fire intensity levels within three years after management activities cease.
2. Use direct control or perimeter control as the wildland fire management strategy in this Management Area.

##### Recreation

##### Guideline

1. Manage for an ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded modified, or roaded natural.

##### Visuals

##### Guidelines



1. Locate and design utility corridors and electronic sites to blend with the landscape and be compatible with visual quality objectives in adjacent management areas.
2. Prepare vegetation management plans for all utility corridors to minimize visual impact and plan rehabilitation of existing impacts.

### **Real Estate**

#### **Guideline**

1. Consider consolidation to:
  - a. Combine like uses in a single corridor, site, or facility
  - b. Coordinate the placement of dissimilar uses in a single corridor, site, or facility

### **Transportation**

#### **Guideline**

1. Issue road permits to utility/electronic site permittees where necessary. Access roads may be closed to public use.